PETITION NO. 1354 – Chatfield Solar Fund, LLC, petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 1.98-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility on approximately 25 acres located generally south of Route 80 (North Branford Road) and east of Chestnut Hill Road in Killingworth, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection to Eversource Energy's Green Hill Substation located at 775 Green Hill Road, Madison, Connecticut.

Decision and Order

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) § 16-50k(a), CGS §4-176 and the foregoing Findings of Fact and Opinion, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) finds that the construction, maintenance, and operation of a 1.98 MW (revised 1.92 MW) Solar Photovoltaic Project on approximately 25 acres located generally south of Route 80 (North Branford Road) and east of Chestnut Hill Road in Killingworth, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection to Eversource Energy's Green Hill Substation located at 775 Green Hill Road, Madison, Connecticut would have a substantial adverse environmental effect and would not comply with applicable U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Water Quality Standards, and therefore, the Council will not issue a declaratory ruling and hereby denies with prejudice the petition for a declaratory ruling for the proposed solar photovoltaic electric generating project.

The Council finds that the proposed project design includes inadequate buffer areas around wetlands and vernal pools, presents challenges for the establishment and maintenance of erosion and stormwater controls that are protective of the water quality of wetlands and watercourses that are in close proximity to the limits of disturbance, has inadequate detail regarding safe maneuvering of emergency response vehicles at the site, clears a portion of contiguous forest area that is greater than 1,000 acres in size, a size recognized by DEEP as increasingly rare within the state, and impacts habitat for state listed species known to occur at the site.

We hereby direct that a copy of the Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order be served on each person listed in the Service List, dated February 22, 2019, and notice of issuance published in <u>The Middletown Press</u>.

By this Decision and Order, the Council disposes of the legal rights, duties, and privileges of each party named or admitted to the proceeding in accordance with Section 16-50j-17 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.